

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OIC-02

SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /067 W

-----050222 191833Z /41

R 190031Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6430

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UN, MX

SUBJECT: 1979 UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT

REF: STATE A-4277 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING BASED ON CONVERSATION OVER LUNCH BY S&T
COUNSELOR WITH CONACYT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CHIEF
RAMIREZ ARAIZA. LATTER DEPARTING NOV 19 FOR VISIT TO
CANADA ACCOMPANYING FONSEC ROEL AND CONACYT DIRGEN
FLORES. RAMIREZ PLANS VISIT NEW YORK NOV 24-25 TO
SAMPLE THE ATMOSPHERE RE QUESTION OF SITE FOR SUBJECT
CONFERENCE.

2. MEXICO LIKELY TO PUSH FOR CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS FROM
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CONFERENCE, E.G. SOME RESOLUTION OF "RULES OF THE GAME"
FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. RAMIREZ EMPHASIZED THAT MEXICO
NO LONGER TAKING STRIDENT POSITION AS SELF-APPOINTED
LEADER OF THIRD WORLD ON THIS ISSUE, BUT ALSO HINTED THAT
IT WISHED TO ADVANCE CAUSE OF LDC'S DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR
OWN TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY AND BREAKING OF BONDS OF
"DEPENDENCY." HE APPEARS TO SINCERELY BELIEVE MEXICAN

ACHIEVEMENTS ALONG THIS LINE ARE WORTHY OF EMULATION BY OTHER LDC'S (AND THAT MEXICAN SITE FOR CONFERENCE ACCORDINGLY MOST LOGICAL).

3. CONACYT HAS PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARATION OF MEXICAN NATIONAL PAPER. AN INTERNAL DRAFT IS ALREADY BEING PREPARED, AND WILL LATER BE CIRCULATED THROUGHOUT GOM AND TO PRIVATE SECTOR FOR COMMENTS. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE CURRENTLY NOT PLANNED, BUT NEITHER IS IT EXCLUDED "ON SPECIFIC POINTS."

4. MEXICO UNLIKELY TO SEEK MAJOR CHANGES IN UN STRUCTURE FOR S&T, BUT IS HOPEFUL THAT IT CAN INFLUENCE UN TO CHANGE ORIENTATION OF EXPERTS (E.G. FROM UNDP) TO BE MORE ATTENTIVE TO LOCAL IDEAS AND NOT SO ALL-KNOWING IN THEIR Demeanor.

5. CONCLUSIONS OF RECENT LATAM EXPERTS MEETING EXPECTED TO INFLUENCE MEXICAN PAPER AS WELL AS OTHERS IN REGION.

6. MEXICO HAS ALREADY BEGUN COORDINATING ITS POSITION FOR CONFERENCE WITH CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY VENEZUELA, CUBA, PANAMA, AND GUATEMALA, AND, TO LESSER EXTENT, BRAZIL AND OTHERS IN REGION. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT, SO FAR, COORDINATION WAS PRIMARILY ACCOMPLISHED DURING RECENT EXPERTS MEETING HERE.
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7. RE QUESTION OF CONFERENCE SITE, RAMIREZ ARAIZA IS CLEARLY PUSHING FOR MEXICAN SITE (AND REGARDS THIS AS A US-MEXICAN CONFRONTATION OF SOME IMPORTANCE) BUT CONFIRMED THAT MEXICO STILL NOT PLANNING TO MOUNT A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE TO ACHIEVE IT. HE CONFIDED TO US THAT, IF MEXICO WINS, ACAPULCO WOULD BE THE DESIGNATED SITE, THOUGH HE INDICATED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE PUBLICIZED BEFORE THE UNGA VOTE (AND IF IT WERE THAT MEXICO WOULD WIN HANDS DOWN). HE MAKES A CASE AGAINST ANY US SITE (ATLANTA, HE UNDERSTANDS, IS OUR CHOICE) ON BASIS THAT SUCH WOULD FOMENT MORE ANTI-MNC DIATRIBE THAN WOULD MEXICAN SITE.

8. COMMENT: EMBASSY DOES NOT NECESSARILY AGREE WITH RAMIREZ' THINKING ON EFFECTS OF SITE ON MEETING SUBSTANCE, BUT FINDS IT INTERESTING. WE ARE IMPRESSED THAT MEXICO APPEARS TO BE TAKING A SERIOUS, FAIRLY NON-POLITICAL APPROACH TO CONFERENCE AND THINK THAT WE CAN WORK WITH MEXICO, REGARDLESS OF SITE DECISION, TO HELP TO ACHIEVE AS POSITIVE AS POSSIBLE AN OUTCOME FROM CONFERENCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO19321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770430-0083
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771138/aaaabgmu.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 46663e15-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE A-4277
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 518202
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1979 UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
TAGS: TGEN, TATT, OCON, MX, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/46663e15-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009